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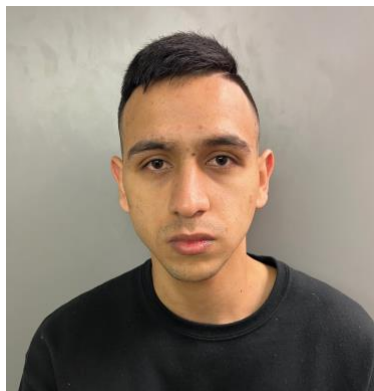
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **BRAYAN GONZALEZ-PAEZ ARRESTED FOR HOMICIDE BY VEHICLE IN UPPER MERION TOWNSHIP CRASH THAT KILLED TWO PEOPLE**



**BRAYAN ALEJANDRO GONZALEZ-PAEZ**

NORRISTOWN, Pa. (Feb. 7, 2024) — Montgomery County District Attorney Kevin R. Steele and Upper Merion Township Director of Public Safety Thomas Nolan announce the arrest of Brayan Alejandro Gonzalez-Paez, 22, of Norristown, for two counts of Homicide by Vehicle, Accidents Involving Death While Not Properly Licensed and other charges related to the Jan. 13, 2024, crash on Valley Forge Park Road in Upper Merion Township that killed 20-year-old Anjelica Guadalupe Amaya Briceno and her 3-year-old daughter.

The single-vehicle crash occurred shortly after 1 a.m. Upper Merion Township Police were dispatched to Valley Forge Park Road west of County Line Road. They arrived to find a 2007 gray Toyota Yaris that had struck a tree. The driver, Gonzalez-Paez, was outside of the car and had removed the 3-year-old, JNBA, who was unresponsive. CPR was begun, and the child was transported to CHOP in King of Prussia, where she was later pronounced dead. Briceno was found trapped and unresponsive in the front passenger seat. She was extricated by emergency personnel and then pronounced dead on scene.

A crash investigation by Montgomery County Detectives and Upper Merion Township Police found that Gonzalez-Paez was driving eastbound on Valley Forge Park Road at a

speed of between 70 and 80 mph in a 35-mph zone, while it was raining heavily. Gonzalez-Paez failed to negotiate a left curve in the roadway, lost control of his vehicle and drove off the right side of the road onto a grass area. The vehicle traveled 74 feet across the grass, while rotating counterclockwise and struck a tree with the front passenger side door, continuing to rotate around the tree before coming to a rest. The vehicle sustained severe damage to the passenger side.

A post-crash inspection on the Toyota Yaris found that there were no mechanical issues that contributed to the crash. It also found that the airbags had deployed, and the seatbelts in the front two seats as well as the rear seat were all fastened, indicating that the seatbelts were connected behind the occupants, so the vehicle's warning chime would not sound. There was no child car seat found in the vehicle.

The investigation also found that the Toyota Yaris was not registered to Gonzalez-Paez, who said he had purchased the car from someone in Norristown and had never transferred the paperwork. Further, the vehicle was not insured as required by law, and Gonzalez-Paez did not have a valid driver's license.

Gonzalez-Paez was arrested on Feb. 6, 2024, on charges of Homicide by Vehicle, Accidents Involving Death or Personal Injury While Not Properly Licensed, Reckless Driving, Driving Without a License and related charges. He was arraigned by Magisterial District Judge Jodi Lukens Griffis, who set bail at \$99,077. The defendant was remanded to the Montgomery County Correctional Facility. A preliminary hearing is scheduled for 9:30 a.m., Feb. 14, 2024, before Magisterial District Judge James P. Gallagher.

This case will be prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Caroline Goldstein.

Approved for release:  
Kevin R. Steele

*CRIMINAL CHARGES, AND ANY DISCUSSION THEREOF, ARE MERELY ALLEGATIONS AND ALL DEFENDANTS ARE PRESUMED INNOCENT UNTIL AND UNLESS PROVEN GUILTY.*